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## Sumo champion fired for gambling

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/100705-sumo.html>

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**5th July, 2010**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/100705-sumo.html>

Sumo authorities in Japan have fired a top wrestler for illegal gambling. The wrestler, Kotomitsuki, is an ozeki junior grand champion, which is sumo's second highest rank. He was one of the most popular fighters in the sport and the highest-ranked wrestler ever to be fired. The Japan Sumo Association (JSA) fired him for illegal betting on baseball games and for harming sumo's image. Kotomitsuki said: "I have received my punishment from the JSA today and I have reflected once again on all the trouble I have caused."

Sumo has a very long history. Many people call it wrestling but it is a martial art. The JSA are very strict with the sumo fighters, known as rikishi, and want to keep the sport clean. Keeping with tradition is a key part of sumo. The sport is declining in popularity in Japan. In the past decade, there have been more non-Japanese than Japanese grand champions. Some people say they do not behave like sumo champions should behave. Earlier this year former grand champion Asashoryu quit after reports he attacked a man outside a nightclub.

# PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/100705-sumo.html>

**Match the following phrases from the article.**

## Paragraph 1

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. authorities in Japan have | a. highest rank         |
| 2. sumo's second             | b. image                |
| 3. one of the most           | c. fired a top wrestler |
| 4. harming sumo's            | d. punishment           |
| 5. I have received my        | e. caused               |
| 6. the trouble I have        | f. popular fighters     |

## Paragraph 2

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Sumo has a very    | a. clean               |
| 2. The JSA are        | b. part of sumo        |
| 3. keep the sport     | c. like sumo champions |
| 4. tradition is a key | d. long history        |
| 5. they do not behave | e. outside a nightclub |
| 6. he attacked a man  | f. very strict         |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/100705-sumo.html>

Sumo authorities in Japan \_\_\_\_\_ for illegal gambling. The wrestler, Kotomitsuki, is an ozeki junior grand champion, which is \_\_\_\_\_. He was one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ sport and the highest-ranked wrestler ever to be fired. The Japan Sumo Association (JSA) fired \_\_\_\_\_ baseball games and for harming sumo's image. Kotomitsuki said: "I have received my punishment from the JSA today \_\_\_\_\_ again on \_\_\_\_\_ caused."

Sumo \_\_\_\_\_. Many people call it wrestling but it is a martial art. The JSA are very strict with the sumo fighters, known as rikishi, and want \_\_\_\_\_. Keeping with tradition \_\_\_\_\_. The sport is \_\_\_\_\_ in Japan. In the past decade, there have been more non-Japanese than Japanese grand champions. Some people \_\_\_\_\_ like sumo champions should behave. Earlier this year former grand champion Asashoryu quit after reports he \_\_\_\_\_ a nightclub.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/100705-sumo.html>

Sumo authorities in Japan have (1) \_\_\_\_ a top wrestler for illegal gambling. The wrestler, Kotomitsuki, is an ozeki junior grand champion, which is sumo's second (2) \_\_\_\_ rank. He was one of the most popular fighters in the sport and the highest-ranked wrestler (3) \_\_\_\_ to be fired. The Japan Sumo Association (JSA) fired him for illegal betting on baseball games and for harming sumo's (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Kotomitsuki said: "I have received my punishment from the JSA today and I have (5) \_\_\_\_ once again on all the trouble I have caused."

Sumo has a very long history. Many people (6) \_\_\_\_ it wrestling but it is a martial art. The JSA are very strict with the sumo fighters, known as rikishi, and want to (7) \_\_\_\_ the sport clean. Keeping with tradition is a key part of sumo. The sport is declining in (8) \_\_\_\_ in Japan. In the past decade, there have been more non-Japanese than Japanese grand champions. Some people say they do not behave like sumo champions should (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Earlier this year former grand champion Asashoryu quit (10) \_\_\_\_ reports he attacked a man outside a nightclub.

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |             |                |                |
|-----|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) fired   | (b) fire       | (c) fires      |
| 2.  | (a) high    | (b) highly     | (c) highest    |
| 3.  | (a) never   | (b) ever       | (c) even       |
| 4.  | (a) image   | (b) imagine    | (c) images     |
| 5.  | (a) causes  | (b) cause      | (c) caused     |
| 6.  | (a) call    | (b) think      | (c) say        |
| 7.  | (a) do      | (b) be         | (c) keep       |
| 8.  | (a) popular | (b) popularity | (c) population |
| 9.  | (a) behave  | (b) behavior   | (c) behaves    |
| 10. | (a) next    | (b) after      | (c) finish     |

# SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/100705-sumo.html>

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. Sumo thsueiitroa in Japan
2. giallle gambling
3. sumo's second tehighsh rank
4. betting on baseball emgsa
5. harming sumo's miaeg
6. the otulrbe I have caused

## Paragraph 2

7. a very long itrhoys
8. a tamlari art
9. Keeping with onttdraii
10. clennigdi in popularity
11. they do not beehav
12. dosieut a nightclub

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/100705-sumo.html>

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) from the JSA today and I have reflected once again on all the trouble I have caused.”
- ( ) part of sumo. The sport is declining in popularity in Japan. In the past decade, there have been more non-
- ( **1** ) Sumo authorities in Japan have fired a top wrestler for illegal gambling. The wrestler, Kotomitsuki, is an ozeki junior
- ( ) the sport and the highest-ranked wrestler ever to be fired. The Japan Sumo Association (JSA) fired him for illegal
- ( ) Japanese than Japanese grand champions. Some people say they do not behave like sumo champions should
- ( ) grand champion, which is sumo's second highest rank. He was one of the most popular fighters in
- ( ) Sumo has a very long history. Many people call it wrestling but it is a martial art. The JSA are very
- ( ) strict with the sumo fighters, known as rikishi, and want to keep the sport clean. Keeping with tradition is a key
- ( ) behave. Earlier this year former grand champion Asashoryu quit after reports he attacked a man outside a nightclub.
- ( ) betting on baseball games and for harming sumo's image. Kotomitsuki said: “I have received my punishment

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/100705-sumo.html>

**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. illegal for wrestler top a Fired gambling.

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2. the fighters sport of popular the One most in.

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3. ever fired highest wrestler be The ranked to -.

---

4. JSA my punishment I from have the received.

---

5. have the I caused All trouble.

---

6. call it wrestling but it is a martial art People.

---

7. sumo The very the are with fighters JSA strict.

---

8. a of Keeping is part tradition key sumo with.

---

9. not do They champions sumo like behave.

---

10. quit Asashoryu champion grand former year This.

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# **WRITING**

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/100705-sumo.html>

**Write about sumo for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.**

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# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. SUMO:** Search the Internet and find more information about sumo. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about sumo. Include imaginary an interview with a top sumo fighter. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to the head of the Japan Sumo Association. Ask him three questions about sumo. Give him three of your opinions on how to make sumo more popular. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.